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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2085)

Name of Candidate	Kashish Bakshi		
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng	Registration Number	1065392
Center	Jaipur	Date	25/03/23

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
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9	10	
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11	15	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH.**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. The Pala Empire is known for a distinctive form of Buddhist art. In this context, discuss the contributions made by the Pala dynasty towards art. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Pala Empire ruled during early Medieval period over West Bengal, Odisha and parts of Bengal.
Palas were the last major patrons of Buddhism and Buddhism saw a revival -

1. Pala Emperors gave patronage for revival of Buddhist universities of Nalanda and founded new ones like Vikramshila & Odantpur.
2. Palas adopted Patna art of painting for Court art.
3. Famous statues of Buddhist Bodhisattvas of Alankiteshwara and Rishabha.
4. Royal funding to Buddhist universities ~~lead~~ led to

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development of artisanal towns around centres.

5. Accounts of foreign travellers

6. Patronage to development of Stupas with elaborate Viharas and chaityas. Eg: Hathigumpha caves were revived.

7. growth of tantrism and Bhakti cult of Shakti godden Tara in Buddhism.

8. Coins with symbols and images of Buddha.

9. Bronze sculptures and statues

Therefore, Pala was the last major dynasty to adopt & promote Buddhism.

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2. It was Adi Shankaracharya's genius that reinvented Hinduism and re-established the Vedic tradition with excellent commentaries. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Adi Shankaracharya's philosophy of Advaita Vedanta gave a renewed understanding of vedic scriptures and purified Hinduism of dogmas.

Renewed Hinduism –

1. Shankaracharya's philosophy of unqualified Brahman as the ultimate Reality gave way for monotheism and monistic interpretation of vedic tradition.
2. Shankaracharya rid Hinduism of dogmatic ritualism and gave importance to logic & knowledge – jnana marg for liberation.

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3. Vedanta philosophy also started Bhakti tradition and emphasized on importance of self-effort for liberation.

Re-established vedic traditions -

1. Shankaracharya gave logical relation b/w vedic explanation of creation with due emphasis on Brahman as ultimate truth and world as maya.
2- Vedanta philosophy challenged popularity of Buddhist and Jaina traditions by giving similar unorthodox interpretation.
3. He emphasized the need of individual effort & eliminated monopoly of priests.

Therefore, Shankara began a renaissance of knowledge.

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3. The colonial forest policies were driven by the needs of the British Empire with no concern for the well-being of the locals and the environment. Discuss in the context of India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

British were the first to initiate through Legislations, the regulation of forests & extraction of forest produce & timber.

Policies & laws passed by British –

1. Forest Rights Act. 1881 was the first legislation which debarred traditionally forest dwelling communities and tribals from entry into forests.
2. Tribals were prohibited from using minor forest produce & could not use the timber
3. Tribals were deprived for their habitat and were

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displaced without compensation & rehabilitation.

4. Regulations passed by British allowed plantations to clear forests for commercial production of coffee, rubber & tea.

5. It gave sole rights over forest, timber & produce to British.

6. It allowed non-tribals to buy land and lend money to tribals which perpetuated their exploitation.

These oppressions also led to several tribal movements, the Santhal Revolution was successful & British were forced to pass a law to restore land to tribals & grant them rights.

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4. The principles of Panchsheel and Non-Alignment aided India in maneuvering the Cold War era. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Post Independence, India was posed with a dilemma in her foreign policy which resulted in Non-Alligment doctrine by Jawaharlal Nehru & Panchseel guidelines to opt for non-alliance with either of the rival superpowers.

1. Non-Alligment movement began with the NAM international conference in Bandung where Tito of Yugoslavia, Nasser of Egypt and Nehru from India began the movement.
2. NAM helped India exercise sovereignty was not alligning with either of the major blocs during cold war.

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3. It stood for independence of developing countries against colonialism and abolition of apartheid.

4. It protected India from ~~beg~~ becoming a pawn of either USA or USSR and taking major internal & external decisions on her own.

5. Panchsheel Pact signed with China in 1952 called for non-interference in each other's territories, peace and mutual respect.

6. Panchsheel supported peaceful dispute resolution,

Therefore, India was able to make her independent decisions & retain integrity while aspiring for global leadership

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5. One of the major features of the 19th century Europe was the struggle for national unification. Discuss in the context of Germany. (Answer in 150 words) 10

During Early 19th CE, Europe was undergoing frequent boundary changes and national unification of Italy and Germany.

National unification struggle of Germany -

1. Germany was an amalgamation of over 200 small kingdoms subsumed loosely under empires of Prussia and Austria-Hungary.
2. Bismark was the father of German unification, called for implementation of his "policy of Blood and Iron."

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3. Bismark convinced Emperor of Prussia to enter diplomatic relations with smaller empires and initiated unification with a unified market and opening of borders for trade.

4. German unification was crucial to consolidate German resources and Bismark took the help of Prussian Glory of the ruling dynasty and pride for the language which was a unifying symbol.

5. Unification involved several battles & subduction of Austro-Hungarian hold of the Parliament.

Therefore, unification was successful in consolidating Germany as a major power.

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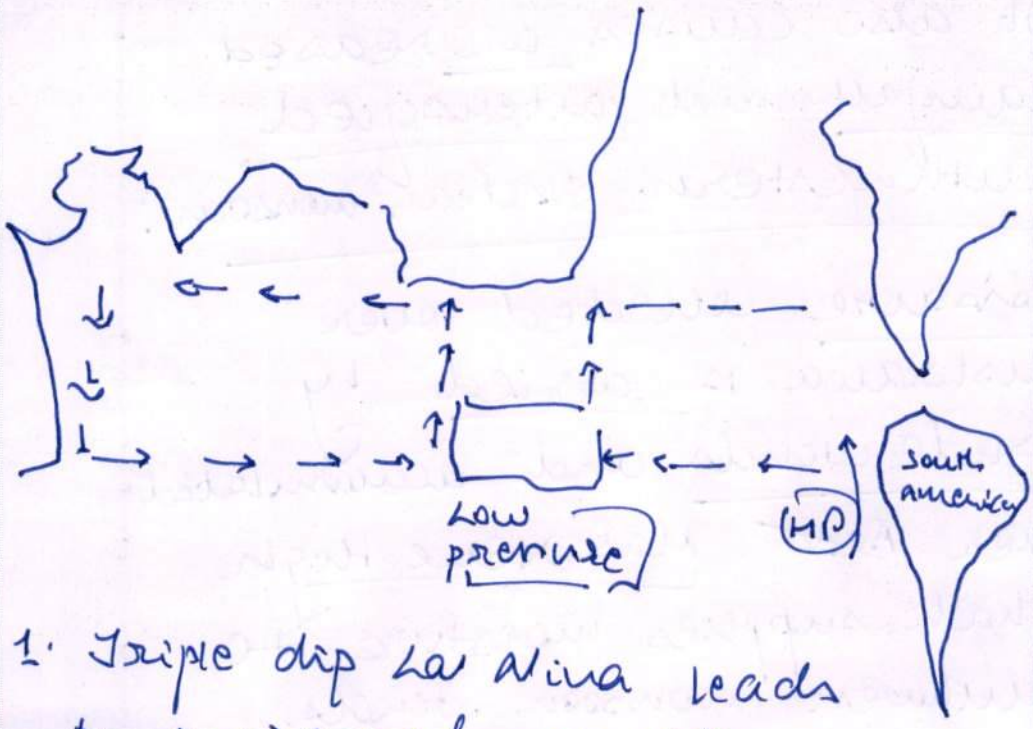
6. What is the triple dip La Niña phenomenon? Discuss its likely impact on different regions of the world. (Answer in 150 words) 10

La Nina is the strengthing of the Cold Peruvian current over the west Pacific region.

Triple dip La Nina is a further intensified La Nina phenomena which results in significant weather phenomena -



1. Triple dip La Nina leads to increased upwelling of cold water across South America

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west coast which leads to dry conditions & drought.

2. It benefits fisheries immensely as upwelling leads to increase in nutrients.

3. It leads to increased rainfall over Australia due to intensified low pressure and increased supply of moisture.

4. It also causes increased rainfall and intensified Southwestern Indian monsoon.

5. Moisture collected over Australia is carried by trade winds and accumulated over ~~mas~~ Mascrene High which supplies moisture to southwest monsoon winds.

Therefore, triple dip La Nina has impacts on weather, economy & fishing

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7. Hydropower is a major source of low-carbon energy supply across the world but its share in India's total electricity generation remains low. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Hydropower refers to renewable energy generation through either small capacity dams or large hydro projects over rivers. Hydropower forms 15% of India's installed capacity according to MNRE Report, 2023.

Energy generation through Hydropower:

1. India has several major dams over Himalayan & Peninsular rivers Eg: Indira sagar and Narmada River Project. Govind Ballabh Pant Hydropower Plant is crucial for supplying both energy & irrigation to farmers in Chotanagpur region,

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Reasons for low share of hydropower –

1. Lack of budgetary allocation and funds as hydropower projects require high inital investments.
2. Environmental clearances & acquisition of land delays. Hydro projects require huge areas and often forests have to be cleared which requires tedious process of clearances
3. Lack of private sector participation
4. Displacement of tribals.
5. No National Policy and single window mechanism.

Therefore to achieve it's target of 176.5GW by Hydropower, India needs to streamline infrastructure

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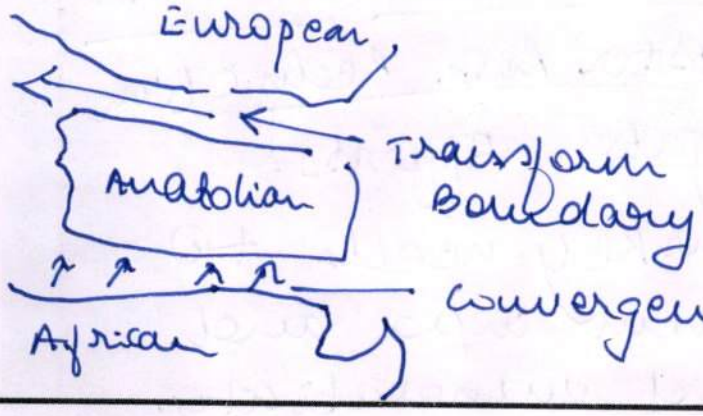
8. Explain the concept of seismic gap in the context of the recent earthquake in Turkey. Also, enlist the reasons behind the severity of the earthquake. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Turkey is located on tectonically sensitive area and suffers major earthquakes due to plate boundaries of the Anatolian plate, Eurasian plate, and African plate.

Seismic Gap of the Anatolian plate -

1. Turkey is located on the minor plate which forms a transform boundary with Eurasian plate which resulted in the recent earthquake



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2. Seismic gap causes entanglement of plate margins which resist against each other until the pressure is released causing a shallow focus of Earthquake which is more destructive.

Reasons for severity -

1. Shallow focus of Earthquake
2. Multiple tremors due to continued pushing against margins.
3. Presence of multiple plate boundaries.
4. Lack of resilient infrastrure and Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Efforts.

Therefore, Turkey needs to develop resilient infra and identification of vulnerability.

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9. Highlighting the recent trends in marriages in India, explain why the legal backing of same-sex marriage is being termed as an issue of seminal importance. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Recently supreme court passed a judgement on validity of same-sex marriages and asked the Parliament to initiate drafting of guidelines & ponder the possibility of amendment in special Marriage Act.

Recent trends in marriages -

1. Marriage as an institution has undergone several changes due to urbanisation, globalisation and modernisation.
2. Increased live-in relationships
3. Increase in inter-caste and inter-religious marriages.
4. Significant independence of youth in choosing partners.

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Legal backing of same-sex marriages -

1. After abolition of sec 377 of IPC, Supreme court through Navteg Singh Johar case made same sex relations decriminalised
2. Next logical step in progression is recognition to same sex marriages as marriage governs several spousal rights & safeguards like devolution of property, maintenance etc.
3. Supreme court exercised Judicial restraint as it is the duty of parliament to frame laws for Equality of all citizens.

Therefore, Parliament should conduct research about willingness of Indian society balanced with equal rights of LGBTQ.

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10. Considering the multiplicity of factors affecting the mental well-being in an inter-connected world, discuss the various challenges in achieving sound mental healthcare. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Mental health is as crucial as physical wellbeing as according to WHO data 40% of the global population suffers from some form of mental illness.

Multiplicity of factors affecting mental well-being –

1. With increased globalisation & IT revolution with growth of internet and social media, the world is as closely interconnected as ever.
2. People are exposed to huge amounts of data and bombarded with information
3. Presence of social media & online relations has led to

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physical isolation & loneliness.

4. However, internet has also helped in spreading awareness and networking for therapy.

Challenges in achieving sound mental healthcare -

1. Lack of awareness and social stigma about mental health.
2. Lack of public expenditure on mental healthcare.
3. Lack of professionals and staff, counselling centres etc.
4. Denial of significance of treating mental illnesses.

Therefore, initiatives like Tele Manas of Indian govt to provide free counselling 24/7 will go a long way.

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11. Elaborate upon the major numismatic stages in India from the ancient to modern times. Also, discuss how the study of coins helps in understanding history. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Numismatics is the study of coinage across dynasties and time periods as a source of history to understand conditions of trade, growth of economy, uniformity and expansion of empire.

Major stages in India from ancient to modern times:

1. First coins appeared in 324BCE under the Mauryan Empire: Chandragupta Maurya had silver punch-marked coins called panna.
2. Coins were limited in number during mahajanpadas and circulation of panna was

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that extensive.

3. First gold coins were released by Kushana Empire and other Indo-Greek dynastics of Sakas over Western and North-western India.

4. These gold coins had elaborate images of the King and also of various Hindu gods like Vishnu.

5. Gupta Empire was the last major Empire to issue gold coins which were the best in quality and covered most of North Indian subcontinent.

6. During the Medieval Era, different dynasties like Pallavas and Rashtrakutas

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started extensive minting of silver coins over Deccan & South India.

7. Sultanate and Mughal period saw fall in intrinsic value of coins and coins were made of copper, silver etc.
→ Mohd. Bin Tughlaq tried to bring token currency during 1100s.

8. The British uniformed minting and circulation of currency over India.

Study of coins helps history —
i) source of prosperity of empires
ii) understand trade relations b/w empires and level of commerce

Therefore, numismatics is important source of study of history.

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12. Despite being celebrated as the champion of Dalit rights, the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar went far beyond that and encompassed a wide range of issues. Elaborate. (Answer in 250 words) 15

BR Ambedkar is the father of India constitution and the champion of Dalit Rights and affirmative action in India —

i) He spread awareness and mobilised dalits through his Organisation - Bahisht sarkarni sabha and scheduled caste Organisation.

ii) BR Ambedkar signed Poona Pact with Gandhi which initiated reservations for scheduled castes in elections.

iii) BR Ambedkar worked for upliftment and called for annihilation of the cast system altogether.

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Scope of contributions -

i) BR Ambedkar supported India as an egalatarian society with equal rights and opportunities for all.

ii) Constitutional safeguards for marginalised communities and reservations in education and public employment.

iii) Elimination of untouchability and passing of Prevention of Atrocities Act.

iv) Reduction in caste-based discrimination and exploitation through rituals.

v) Renewal and rationalization of Hinduism with discontinuation of caste based discrimination

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vi) Inter-caste marriages and reduced ritualistic practise of purity.

vii) BR Ambedkar helped India transform as a secular, pluralistic society with tolerance for various religions and communities.

viii) Ridding Hinduism of dogmatic practises and emphasizing on importance of scientific modern education.

Therefore, BR Ambedkar contributed in development of the vibrant democracy that India is today with celebration of diversity.

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13. The Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-34 was marked by a unique character, regional spatial patterns and employment of new mobilization techniques. Elucidate. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Civil Disobedience Movement was started by Gandhiji after the Dandi March in April 1930 and breaking of the salt law at Sabarmati.

Unique character of CDM -

1. It was the first national level Satyagraha which called for non-violent breaking of laws.
2. Gandhi employed symbolism and used "salt" as a unifying symbol to bring all Indians together.
3. It was first movement that saw women at forefront.

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Regional spatial patterns:

1. Salt satyagrahas and breaking of salt tax & production of salt took place at various locations.

2. In South, C. Rajagolachari led the movement from Trivadrum and produced salt in Madras.

Employment of new mobilisation →

3. In Andhra Pradesh various small committees were formed to break the salt tax & promote boycott of foreign liquors & clothes.

4. Civil Disobedience movement was carried out in phases from 1930 - 1932 and then again after III Round table Conf.

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Employment of new mobilisation techniques:

1. People were unified through common cause of production of salt.
2. Women participated in large no. and led various marches.
3. Sarojini Naidu was made head of Congress Working comm.
4. Students participated in large numbers.
5. It saw increased participation from rural areas & transformed National Movement from a small elitist base to a mass struggle.

Therefore, CDM exerted significant pressure on British to increase scope of devolution of powers.

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14. Explain the underlying causes behind the phenomenon of sinking islands in India's coastal regions. Also, evaluate its possible implications for the nation as a whole and island communities in particular. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Phenomena of sinking islands in coastal regions is the submergence of coastal margins & small islands due to climate change and global warming.

Causes -

1. Increase in sea-level due to increase in sea surface temperature and increased melting of glaciers & ice in polar regions.
2. Due to increased heat trapped in oceans, intensity of weather conditions like tsunamis, cyclones have increased with more frequency of such events.

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3. Changes in precipitation & increased rainfall causing flooding in coastal regions.

4. Coastal erosion due to increased sea level is also causing sinking of islands.

Implications for nation –

1. Loss of territorial area as Islands are crucial for demarcation of Exclusive Economic Zone of country.

2. Loss of GDP and economic growth due to lowered fishing activities and hit to tourism.

3. Increased budgetary allocation ~~of~~ for evacuation &

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rehabilitation of communities living on Islands.

Implications for island communities

1. Loss of culture and traditions due to loss of traditional habitat.
2. Change in livelihood source thereby causing change in lifestyle patterns.
3. Loss of significant resources and regional languages.
4. Loss of property and life during disasters causing adverse effect to social security

Therefore, small Island communities are particularly vulnerable to adverse effects and should be compensated for loss & damage.

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15. Give a critical account of region-specific constraints with regard to sustainable tourism in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Sustainable tourism practises include various factors like renewable energy utilization for transportation & housing; waste management and environmentally friendly tourist activities.

Region-specific constraints to tourism sustainability –

1. Tectonic sensitivity and subduction of land in Himalayas

→ Joshimath subduction and Kedarnath earthquake was caused due to tectonic activity from unsustainable infrastructure development.

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2. Increased population density in Himalayan hill stations of Shimla, Joshimath, Dehradun.

3. Pressure on land and uncontrolled development of unsustainable infrastructure causes constraints to sustainable tourism across Shivaliks.

4. Kerala: increased incidents of toppling and damage of backwater-boats due to unlicensed activity and lack of regulation of tourist activities.

5. Lack of sufficient staff to maintain cleanliness & dispose waste safely in major tourist destinations

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of Agra, Jaipur causing burden on local population and contamination of local water bodies & landfills.

6. Northeastern region suffers from lack of connectivity through transport and ethnic violence causing difficulty in harnessing sustainable tourism potential.

7. Lack of sustainable rituals of pilgrimage tourism across Ganga has caused issues of river pollution in Varanasi, Mathura etc.

Therefore, Ministry of Tourism needs to develop district based plans dealing with unique local issues.

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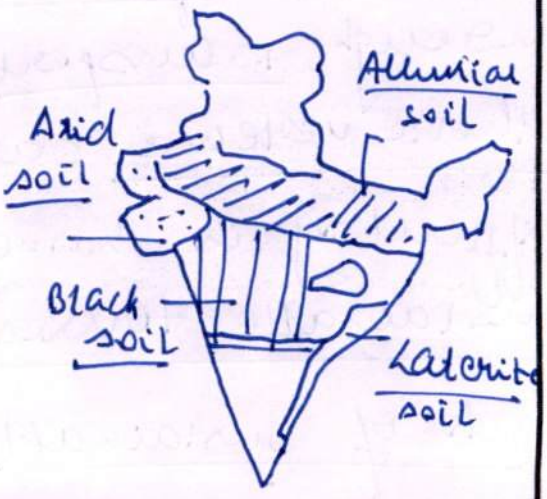
16. In view of the important role played by soil for the ecosystem, discuss the significance of sustainable soil management in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Soil is the most crucial input for agriculture and prevention of land degradation. India has presence of all major soils with 40% land covered by alluvial soil.



Important Role

i) Soil provides nutrients to crops.

ii) Soil prevents erosion by binding topsoil with land.

iii) Soil is important for recharge of groundwater & acquifers.

iv) Soil helps in organic decomposition of wastes.

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Significance of sustainable soil management -

1. Increased agriculture productivity and doubling of farmers income : According to Dalwai panel - 1 hac of land under sustainable soil management increases input efficiency by 25%.
2. Sustainable soil management includes using minimum amount of chemical fertilizers and pesticides which leach into groundwater causing pollution & contamination.
3. Sustainable soil management involves managed irrigation which will reduce salinity of land.

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4. Increased agriculture yield will support development of allied-sector and food processing activities leading to development of rural india through secondary agriculture.

5. Soil management is helpful to increased land use efficiency leading to sustainable use and divergence of land for non-farm use: building manufacturing.

6. Protection of natural habitat and preservation of biodiversity

Therefore, save soil movement & obligations under UNCCD should be implemented with increased people participation.

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17. Jet streams play an important role in altering the climate of India and the world. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Jet streams are upper troposphere planetary winds which are narrow belts of air flowing at high speeds generally from West to East and are also called westerlies.

Important role in altering climate;

1. Polar vortex formed due to Polar Jetstream regulate climate in Northern hemisphere by capturing polar winds in Arctic region, thereby allowing relatively moderate winters in temperate zone.

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2. Frontogenesis and temperate cyclones : jet streams play an important role in formation of cold and warm airmasses which lead to frontal activity & precipitation in temperate and sub-temperate regions.

3. Western disturbances and winter rainfall in Indian subcontinent : Western Jet stream carries moisture from Mediterranean and cause winter rainfall in Northern India due to Orographic effect from Himalayas

→ Significant for Rabi crops.

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4. Tropical Easterly Jet is responsible for attracting increased moisture as it moves northward over Peninsular India during southwest monsoon.

5. Tropical Easterly Jet also helps in carrying air from upper atmosphere over Tibetan plateau and depositing it over Mascarene High pressure region in Indian ocean.

Therefore. Jetstreams play a significant role in maintaing global pressure belts and wind circulation which controls weather phenomena.

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18. Highlighting the factors responsible for the formation and proliferation of slums in India, discuss the need to revamp the In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). (Answer in 250 words) 15

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) is the largest affordable housing scheme in the world with over 2 lakh crore budgetary allocation.

Factors for formation & proliferation of slums –

1. Lack of town planning and urban development: most master plans are outdated.
2. Increased distress migration from rural India due to agrarian crisis.
3. Lack of affordabe housing due to limited participation

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of private developers due to stringent rent control regimes.

4. Unsustainable floor: ratio index causing suboptimal use of land.

5. Lack of staff and experts for sustainable town planning and infrastructure development.

6. Suboptimal land use pattern due to slums spread over large areas.

7. Lack of adequate employment opportunities causing acute poverty and lack of financial support to afford housing.

8. Lack of administrative and political will to transform slum areas.

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Need to Revamp ISSR:

1. In situ slum Development scheme has not been successful in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities due to reduced returns.
2. Increase avenues for PPP model and private investment in ISSR projects to reduce financial burden on govt.
3. Move towards conclusive land titling to grant slum dwellers rights over land.
4. ISSR can help formalize their living conditions & increase service delivery in these areas.

Therefore, ISSR is the key to increase efficiency of land use to deal with slum areas.

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19. Bring out the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation in India. How can poverty reduction efforts play an important role in promoting sustainable development and safeguarding the environment? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Poverty and environmental degradation form a negative feedback loop which leads to increased vulnerability to adverse effects of degradation on poor and thereby poor people also contributing more to degradation through unsustainable practises.

Relationship -

1. Unsustainable waste disposal practises in poor areas leads to increased degradation of land and water bodies.
2. Poor communities are more vulnerable to loss of property

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and lives during natural disasters. Eg: urban flooding always causes more damages to slum areas.

3. Small and marginal farmers face the brunt of falling productivity of land due to soil erosion and increased frequency of flash floods.

4. Poor communities suffer from lack of resilient infrastructure and are last to receive mitigation funding.

Poverty reduction efforts help in promoting sustainable development & safeguarding environment —

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1. SDG 1 calls for elimination of acute poverty - reduction of poverty improves inclusive growth.
2. SDG 2, 3 and 4 call for elimination of hunger and availability of healthcare & sanitation which will increase resilience of poor communities in fighting adverse effects.
3. sustainable solid waste management and reduction in landfills & encroachment of urban water bodies will provide better environment to poor.

Therefore, convergence b/w poverty reduction schemes are environmental protection efforts can be ensured by innovative policies like PM Kusum

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20. The relationship between globalisation and religion has been a complex one with new possibilities and challenges emerging as a result of the interaction between the two. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Globalisation means increased interrelationship and interconnected nations through international trade and commerce, growth of IT etc.

→ Globalisation and religion have a complex relation as it leads to both increased tolerance and sharing of religious beliefs. However it has also led to growth of fundamentalism to preserve conventional, traditional practices

New possibilities -

1. Religious tolerance and heterogeneous societies as globalisation promotes

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exchange of culture.

2. Pluralistic values and opportunity for spreading awareness about unique practices
Eg: Madhubani tribal paintings have found a big market overseas

3. Growth of secularism and increased non-interference of state with religion.

Challenges :-

1. Increased fundamentalism and protectionist behaviour by countries causing regressive trends of religious control over state policy Eg: reversal of Roe v. Wade causing ban on abortions in USA.

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2. Fundamentalist ideologies causing increased financing of terror activities Eg: charities of Islamic institutes of middle East.

3. Intolerance and faultlines due to conflicting nature of globalisation and religious exclusivism.

4. Increased instances of communal violence due to propaganda and hate speech through internet.

Therefore, globalisation has had complex impact on Religion which can be managed by glocalisation and enough safeguards for people to preserve their traditional values.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2086)

Name of Candidate	Kashish Bakshi		
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng	Registration Number	1065392
Center	Jaipur	Date	21 Aug 23'

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH.**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Do you agree with the view that there is a need to enact a new law for ensuring judicial accountability in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Judicial accountability refers to judicial standards of judgements and respect of separation of powers by exercising judicial restraint.

Need for law to ensure judicial accountability

1. Art 50 of Consti provides for separation of judiciary from executive.
2. Judiciary is the custodian and guardian of constitution; responsible for interpreting provisions and preventing abuse of power by organs.
3. Art 13 provides for judicial review and declares laws contradicting / violating Part III as void.
4. Judiciary is composed of Higher Judiciary which includes supreme court and High court and lower judiciary at district level.

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5. In exercise of wide powers, judiciary sometimes transgresses separation of powers through judicial activism and adventurism.
Eg: 2G scam case and revoking coal blocks for coalgate scandal.

6. However judiciary also plays an important role of filling the vacuum for legislative incompetence.
Eg: vishakha guidelines.

7. Law for judicial accountability may control instances of judicial activism. However it suffers the risk of excessive regulation which may prevent judiciary from carrying out its role sufficiently.

8. Judiciary also struck down NJAC (99th CAA) as it was held a/g basic structure doctrine.

Therefore certain changes to ensure accountability of appointment is required.

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2. Constitutionally reconciling Fundamental Rights with the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) has been a tough task since the inception of the Indian Constitution. Discuss with the help of relevant case laws.(Answer in 150 words) 10

Fundamental rights are provided under Part III of the constitution & DPSP under Part IV which account of basic rights of the citizens and guidance for state policy respectively.

Reconciliation has been arrived at through a range of judgements and constitutional amendments:

1- Champakam Dorairajan v. UoI 1950: was the first case dealing with the conflict b/w Part III and Part IV and it was held that Part IV cannot supercede Part III.

2. This led to the first constitutional amendment adding provisions of Art 15(4) and Art 16(4) for reservations and the 9th schedule.

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3. Again under TMA Pai case, Supreme Court held that provisions of Fundamental rights can be abridged for giving effect to DPSP.

4. 24th and 25th Constitutional Amendments added Art 39(b) and Art 39(c) which state that any provision of FRs can be amended & changed for common good and welfare.

5. Golaknath v. State of Punjab held that Part III is sacrosanct and cannot be amended at all and supercedes DPSP.

6. Kesavananda Bharti v. UOI finally propounded the basic structure doctrine holding both FRs and DPSP in equilibrium

Therefore, currently both have been reconciled according to the basic structure.

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3. Discuss the functions performed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and its role in shaping policy-making in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Prime ministers office (PMO) is an executive body which includes officers and ~~be~~ bureaucrats working directly for the PM.

Functions of PMO:

1. PMO provides secretarial support
2. Redressal of grievances by facilitation of coordination & communication b/w ministries
3. Communication and direct responsiveness to letters and applications addressed to PM.
4. Information dissemination through various social media handles about schemes & plans of PM visits.

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Role for policy-making:

1. PMO is directly appointed by the PM and constitutes of experts from various fields.
2. PMO works in close tandem with the cabinet and secretaries of various ministries to ensure coordination and integration of policy-making.
3. PMO works with NITI Aayog to develop broad vision and long-term goals for socio-economic development.
4. PMO is closely associated w various programmes like Gati Shakti to break silos in admin,

Therefore, even though not a constitutional body, PMO plays a vital role for maintaing uniformity.

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4. Re-examination and reconsideration of the provisions of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) requires striking a balance between concerns of civil liberties and human rights, and maintaining and protecting the sovereignty and integrity of India. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Supreme Court in 2021 has put an indefinite stay on all ongoing cases of sedition under sec 124A and has barred constitution of any fresh cases to give govt. time to reconsider and amend sec 124A.

→ Need for sedition:

1. Art 19(2) provides for reasonable restrictions on freedoms provided under Art 19; which include restrictions to protect sovereignty and integrity of India
2. Colonial past: sedition was utilized as a tool to drown dissent but was added post independence to fight fissiparous tendencies of princely states & communal roits.

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⇒ Balance b/w civil liberties and sovereignty and integrity:

1. Sec 124A provides that disaffection against state causing violence or threat thereof amounts to sedition. Hence the purpose of the section is to prevent violence, public disorder and national security as upheld by AK Gopalan v. State of Madras.

2. Balwant Singh v. State of Punjab held that only those words & actions which lead to violence will be seditious and mere sloganeering cannot attract it.

3. Therefore, in light of increased cases & increase in rate of conviction from 3% in 2016 to 33% in 2019, it is important to harmonize the section with fundamental rights guaranteed.

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5. "Citizen participation is key to the success of e-governance initiatives in rural India." Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Egovernance (egov) means service delivery, greivance redressal and implementation of policies through electronic and remote means.

Citizen participation key to success of egov in Rural India:

1. Egov includes DBT, transfer of subsidies and various services like information, weather reports, soil health cards etc.
2. Egov requires citizen participation because without technologically empowered and aware citizens, egov policies cannot function.
3. Egov requires closing of digital divide as success of policies depends on ability of citizens to utilize services.

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4. Egov also requires financial inclusion and elimination of unbanked populations.

Initiatives to increase citizen participation

1. JAM trinity : linking of mobile with aadhaar and bank accounts and opening of zero balance accounts has ensured financial inclusion.
2. Apps like sagarmitra which guide fishermen about navigation and weather conditions in vernacular languages.
3. Soil Health cards for increased input efficiency.
4. Embedding provision of social audits in various schemes like MGNREGA for DBT wages.

Therefore, capacity building & availability of devices is important for egov.

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6. How far do you think the Aspirational District Programme has been able to achieve its objectives since its inception? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Aspirational Dist. Prog focuses on 356 districts that lag behind in socio-economic indicators and is implemented by Min of Rural Development and conceptualized by NITI Aayog.

Success of Aspirational Dist. Prog. –

1. ADP has successfully identified districts that need special policy focus and increased disbursement of funds.
2. ADP has helped streamline measures specific to local requirements. Eg: different policies for NE districts compared to districts in central India.
3. ADP districts have shown improved performance in

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various indicators of NITI's index:
Eg: improvement in MMR and child mortality rates in all districts.

5. ADP has been hailed by World Bank for quality of implementation and infrastructure development.

Challenges in success of ADP:

1. More than 60% of the districts have still not achieved targets outlined.
2. Regional disparities as NE states lagging behind.
3. Underutilization of funds

Therefore, ADP needs to be transformed into a needs and rights-based, demand oriented prog. with increased citizen participation.

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7. Technology has a crucial role to play in advancing the NGO sector and improving outcomes for beneficiaries. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10

NGOs as per World Bank are these organisations which work for relieving suffering and upliftment of poor.

Role of technology in advancing NGOs:

1. Helps NGOs connect with wider base for both volunteers and beneficiaries. Eg: NGOs utilize social media to popularize their agendas - Eg. PETA's instagram handle important for awareness.
2. Technology helps NGOs employ remotely: many people volunteer for Teach India campaigns online.
3. Technology helps increase funds and crowdfunding through marketing.

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Role of technology in improving outcomes:

1. Technology has increased outreach of NGOs with increased users of mobiles.
2. Teach India campaign in association w digital education campaigns of govt. have made education more accessible and available.
3. Smile Foundation working for children uses technology to connect with beneficiaries.
4. NGOs working for geriatric care employ technology for remote diagnosis and support through telemedicine.
5. ASER utilizes technology to conduct surveys remotely.

Therefore, digitalization improves outcomes by connecting and enhancing interaction & participation

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8. Discuss the implications associated with the entry of foreign educational institutions for technical and higher education in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Foreign educational institutes are now allowed to open campuses in India and are allowed to invest through automatic FDI route.

Implications with entry of foreign institutions for techinal education:

1. Increased quality of research with eminent institutions like MIT working with IITs and guiding R&D environment.
2. Increased focus on doctoral efforts instead of viewing technical education only for employment purposes.
3. Increased investments for infrastructure development.

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4. Accessibility to state of the art technology for labs and campuses.

⇒ Implications for higher education

1. Increased cost of education: hamper affordability of higher education and further marginalize poor.
2. Hamper accessibility of students with lower proficiency in English and from rural backgrounds.
3. It may increase availability as no. of institutions may increasing leading to improved enrollments.

Therefore, policy needs to formulated in a way to tackle obstacles while harnessing benefits.

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9. The flourishing relationship between India and countries of Latin America has become a critical element of India's foreign policy. Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Latin America includes nations of South America and Caribbean islands which are similar in goals and aspirations to India being part of global South.

Flourishing relationship —

1. Energy & countries like Venezuela, Guyana being rich in oil and mineral deposits.

2. Trade: has increased manifold and Latin America as a whole is India's 5th largest trading partner.

3. Critical minerals: Lithium triangle of Argentina.

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Bolivia and Chile are important for EV and semiconductors.

4. South-South cooperation provides platform to discuss common goals.

Challenges to relationship

1. Distance b/w India and Latin America has been a big factor for lukewarm contact.

2. Lack of investments and utilizing trade potential — India has a trade agreement with Mercusor but lags behind with other nations.

Therefore, dedicated policy & increased focus can help India build a holistic equation

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10. What is debt-trap diplomacy? How does China's debt-trap diplomacy impact India's interests in its neighbourhood? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Debt trap diplomacy is when the creditor country deliberately flows credit into the debtor country with intention of leveraging economic and territorial benefits because they know the debtor company will falter.

China's debt trap diplomacy impacts India's interest -

1. Threat of sovereignty and integrity of India: EG: CPEC passes through POK.

2. Security threats: EG: China's string of pearls is capturing strategic ports like

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Hambantotta of Sri Lanka and Gwadar in Pakistan to surround India.

3. Eating into India's sphere of influence: China utilizes debt trap diplomacy to promote anti-India sentiment
Eg: "India Out" movement in Maldives and funding to leftist parties in Nepal.

4. Impact India's trade relations
China is biggest trading partner of all South Asian nations.

Therefore, debt trap diplomacy of China threatens India's interests as it indirectly influences all aspects of Indian foreign policy.

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11. Despite being an amalgamation of various constitutions from across the world, the Indian Constitution imbibes social justice, pluralism, and equality through its various provisions. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indian Constitution is an amalgamation of various constitutions with inspired provisions from various countries
Eg: fundamental rights from USA, parliamentary democracy from Westminister.
Despite being an amalgamation India constitution has not copied straight but has tweaked every provision to suit Indian conditions -

1. Social Justice: affirmative action and provision of reservations for marginalized is unique to India. Hence even though motivated by Bill of Right - USA, social

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justice has unique provisions:

i) Art 15(3) provides for sp. provisions for women and children.

ii) Art 15(4) provides for reservation for educationally & socially backward.

iii) Art 16 (4) provides for reservations in public employment

→ DPSP are inspired from Ireland but many provisions are unique to India:

i) Art 43: provides for cooperatives.

ii) Art 39(b) allows state to ensure distribution of wealth.

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2- For Pluralism — Indian Constitution has unique provision to secure diversity which are not found anywhere —

i) Art 25 provides for Indian version of secularism which allows state to interfere for upliftment and aid.

ii) Art 30: provides safeguards to minorities to manage their institutions.

3. For Equality — Even though Art 14 provides only for procedural equality; scope has been widened to include due process by Maneka Gandhi case

Therefore, Indian Constitution tactfully deals with Indian requirements.

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12. Recent developments have brought to light the issue of criminalizing marital rape in India. Analyse the implications of ensuring legal protection for victims of marital rape in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India doesnot recognise marital rape as an offence under IPC and debate around same is ongoing. Marital rape constitutes forced intercourse or assault by husband on his wife.

Implications on criminalizing marital rape includes both positives and challenges. Positive implications are:

1. Protection of women and securing their autonomy and personal liberty according to Art 21.
2. Currently women have no legal recourse and safeguards

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against this heinous offence.

3. Uphold equality under Art 14 - even though rape is a severe, cognizable and non-bailable offence under IPC; similar treatment is not accorded to victims of marital rape.

4. Gender equity and empowerment of women as provided by Art 15(3) for special provisions

⇒ Challenges to criminalizing -

1. Ground for divorce: according to Hindu Marriage Act, denial of conjugal rights amounts to a ground for divorce.

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2. Abuse of provision like Sec 498A preventing dowry is amongst the most abused sections of IPC to strongarm husband and his family.

3. Lack of evidence and difficulty in procedure: defining the offence and grounds for evidence are difficult and complicated.

4. Against societal traditions and marriage practises: Personal laws are not uniform and such an act will require amendments to various laws.

Therefore, even though multiple challenges exist it is of utmost importance that offence be criminalized.

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13. "The Indian model of federalism has been criticized for being too centralized, but it also provides adequate space and autonomy to the states." Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indian Federalism has two unique aspects of a unitary bias for centre and assymetrical federalism b/w states.

Allegations of over centralization-

1. Art 246 and VII Schedule provide for distribution of subjects b/w centre and states- List of centre has 98 subjects whereas states have only 56.
2. Art 248 provides Residuary powers with the centre.
3. Art 368 allows only the Parliament to make constitutional amendments.

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4. Art 153: Governor - head of executive of the state serves under pleasure of President.

5. President appoints members of higher judiciary.

6. Art 356: provides for President Rule in States upon report of governor.

7. Art 280: Finance Comm. appointed by president.

Adequate space and autonomy:

1. Federalism is secured as Centre is barred from legislating on matters within state list Eg: as agriculture was part of state list, farm laws were revoked.

2. Adequate provisions for securing independence in

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election and function of State Executive and Legislature

3. Art 368 amendments which have significant impact on states must be ratified by 50% of the states. Eg: GST Act was ratified.

4. Art 54: Election of President includes both MLAs and MPs in electoral college.

5. Rajya Sabha functions as council of states and amendments to provisions like All India Services etc. can be only be initiated in Rajya Sabha.

Therefore, despite the unitary bias, states have autonomy of action & finances in their realms.

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14. The recent judgment of the Supreme Court on appointments to the Election Commission of India (ECI) has fundamentally changed the appointment process and can have potentially far-reaching implications. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

In 2023 SC through [Anoop Baranwal v. UOI] has radically transformed appointment process of Election commissioner.

Earlier, ECI was appointed by Central Govt according to Art 324 of constitution. Problems with erstwhile system -

1. Central bias and overcentralization
2. Lack of transparency & accountability in appointment process.
3. As constitution does not specify any qualifications for appointment, centre would appoint (CEC) according to own preference.

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This led to doubt about independence of functioning of ECI. However there do exist many constitutional provisions to safeguard autonomy :

1. Security of Tenure : CEC and ECs can only be removed acc to procedure to remove SC judges.
2. Conditions of service cannot be altered to their disadvantage
3. Eligible to appointment after retirement.

However to ensure greater autonomy and independence the following changes have been made :-

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selection committee for choosing CEC will include PM, leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha & CJI.

Implications —

1. Even though it will ensure independence & impartiality of selection process, it can be questioned on grounds of separation of powers.
2. It amounts to judicial activism as new guidelines should have been initiated by constitutional amendment by Parliament.

Therefore, new process of selection will empower CEC further and will strengthen democracy in India.

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15. Integration with the global trends and opening up of the economy has resulted in diversified challenges for the civil services, which require holistic reforms for efficient service delivery. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Post 1991 LPG reforms, India has undergone massive economic growth and structural transformations.

Diversified challenges for civil services -

1. Integration with global trends like increased market competition and capitalism have led to jobless growth in India causing biggest challenge of skilling and availability of employment

2. Opening of global economy has caused rapid increase of service sector with

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problem of missing middle.

3. Law and order challenges due to idle youth & increased disparities.

4. Criminalization of politics due to increased money & muscle power.

Reforms for Efficient service delivery by civil services —

1. CPGRAMS is utilized for greivance redressal.

2. Civil servants need to go through constant capacity building and training ensured by Karmayogi Yojna.

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3. Adoption of Best Practises from Brazil to involve citizens through constant feedback on performance of civil servants.

4. From generalists to experts by transforming both recruitment process and qualifications.

5. Augmenting skills through dynamic training for dealing with diversified challenges.

Therefore, innovation & creativity are required to deal with new challenges.

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16. What role can open data play in promoting transparency and accountability in e-governance in India? What are the challenges in ensuring the quality and reliability of open data in the country? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Egovernance is conduct of governance service, formulation and implementation of policy using electronic means.

Role of open data in transparency and accountability:

1. Open data means data accessible for public scrutiny and open to all for information & transparency.
2. Open data on outcomes of schemes and utilization of funds can ensure public accountability and deterence of corruption.

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3. Enhance citizen participation and role in decision-making through access to information.
4. Regular social audits and accountability enhanced as open data allows increased awareness & knowledge.

Challenges in quality and reliability of open data –

1. Privacy concerns : in absence of data protection framework such open data is susceptible to being misused.
2. Quality of such data is often suboptimal as no provision standardising such data exist.

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3. Open data is often outdated and is not updated acc. to changes and hence has low utility.

4. Sec 8 of RTI allows denial of sharing of public data for privacy & security concerns.

5. No mechanism to check the veracity and reliability of such data leading to misrepresentation and false reporting.

Therefore, open data guidelines need to be formulated & implemented to ensure utility balanced with privacy concerns.

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17. To reduce the prevalence of 'zero food' children in India, maternal nutrition needs to be made a priority. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

"Zero food" children refer to children suffering from acute intergenerational malnutrition According to NFHS 5: 35% children are stunted and 15% children are wasted.

Maternal nutrition needs -

1. Children suffer from malnutrition due to poor maternal health during pregnancy leading to deficiencies and distorted coguitive abilities.
2. Maternal nutrition needs are ignored as women are not adequately

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educated and suffer from chronic denial of nutrition needs.

3. Poverty and lack of diversification of PDS foodgrains is another reason why maternal nutrition needs are unmet.

4. Detrimental traditional practices of double burden on women of household chores.

Initiatives to enhance maternal nutrition needs —

1. ASHA and anganwadi services available to all rural pregnant and lactating mothers to spread awareness and ensure basic vitamins and drugs are available.

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2. ICDS - flagship prog. of min of women ensures delivery of nutritional food.

3. Janani suraksha Yojna and Matritva vandana Yojna also focus on maternal nutrition needs.

⇒ Steps to be taken -

1. Diversify PDS distributive grains eg. Karnataka includes pulses.

2. Increased availability of multivitamins through ASHA and increased awareness about importance of maternal nutrition.

Therefore, to tackle the problem of zero children, Indian mothers need focus and priority.

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18. Recently, the Central government exempted all foods and drugs for rare diseases imported by people for personal use from customs duty. What are the concerns related to rare diseases as a public health issue in India? How can these be resolved? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Rare diseases are those which bother only a meagre part of population but are extremely fatal and need priority focus eg: sickle cell anaemia, thalessimia etc.

Concerns:

1. Affordability and availability of treatment - Often these diseases require very expensive procedures & medicines thereby being called orphan drugs.
2. Lack of accessibility as very few institutions &

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hospitals provide treatment.

3. Lack of awareness about disease and cures.

4. Lack of investment in research and innovations

5. Lack of infrastructure & private investment.

Resolution -

1. Govt has recently passed an Act - Rare Diseases (Prevention & Cure) for making treatment available.

2. It has enlarged the no. of rare diseases.

3. Compulsory Licensing under patent regime allows govt to produce

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medication without permission.

4. Awareness about diseases and widespread awareness about prevention. Eg: rare diseases can be prevented if parents undergo genetic check up for diseases like sickle cell anaemia.

5. Increased public investment in developing infra and increase no. of hospitals.

6. PPP model for roping in private investment for research.

Therefore, increased public expenditure, improved patent regime and increased awareness can help tackle.

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19. For realistic and effective collaborations to take place in the Indo-Pacific region, there is a need to acknowledge and recognize the underlining intention of the various countries with stakes in the region. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indo-Pacific region includes countries on East Coast of Africa to West Coast of USA, stretching across both Indian and Pacific Ocean.

varied divergences in intentions

1. USA has a confrontational approach to Indo-Pacific & intends to directly compete with China's dominance.
2. European and ASEAN countries on the other hand have a cooperative approach and want to co-opt China.

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3. USA intends to strengthen maritime security with platforms like AUKUS & Quad.

4. ASEAN nations do not favour militarization but connectivity and maritime cooperation.

5. India must engage with nations based on their intention Eg: it participated in Quad which is not a security alliance unlike AUKUS.

⇒ Convergences in intentions:

despite various divergences all nations like USA, Japan, Australia EU and India, ASEAN agree to certain principles -

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1. Connectivity and independent and free navigation.
2. Diversification of supply chains through partnerships like IPEF.
3. Rules-based maritime relations and upholding provision of UNCLOS.
4. Maritime cooperation to increase trade & deter illicit activities like piracy.

Therefore, Indo-Pacific being the playground for major nations and crucial for countering Chinese aggression needs to be tactfully managed by India.

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20. There is a need to address the underlying challenges, both internal and external, in the North-Eastern region of India before it can serve as a pivotal connecting space between India and its neighbours. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

North Eastern region includes 8 states and is territorially and historically disconnected with mainland but is very crucial for India's "Act East" and "Neighbourhood first policy."

Internal challenges:

1. Lack of transport and connectivity – Northeast is separated from mainland by narrow Siliguri corridor.
2. Ethno-nationalism and ethnic violence: NE has suffered from extremism

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and ethnic clashes. AFSPA is enforced still on Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland, Manipur; Recent ethnic violence & riots b/w Meities & Kukis in Manipur.

3. Susceptibility to natural disasters being located on sensitive tectonic zone of Himalayas & flooding of rivers like Brahmaputra.

⇒ External challenges –

1. All states of NE share international borders & suffer from issues of smuggling and ~~trackif~~ trafficking.

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2. Illegal immigration from bordering states Eg: Bangladesh.
3. Proximity to golden crescent and drug abuse in youth from Myanmar, Thailand etc.

⇒ Pivotal role foreign policy —

1. NE is important link connecting India to southeast Asia through land.
2. Cultural and ethnic ties among people accross borders must be fostered.
3. Various agreements like BBIN - MVA and Transnodal Kaladan connectivity etc.

Therefore, NE has to be holistically integrated to reap benefits.

Q. 1.

India is the second largest producer of dairy products and women constitute 90% of the industry according to World Bank.

Women's contribution to livestock rearing -

1. Women make up 90% of the workers and constitute the unorganised labour force for livestock rearing.
2. Agrarian crisis has led to mass migration of men to urban areas, leaving woman to manage agriculture and allied activities.
3. Women are responsible for 80% of the milk production in India through cooperatives like Amul.

Issues by women in livestock -

1. Lack of access to formal credit - due to unorganised nature and lack of property ownership, women do not have access to loans from banks.
2. Lack of health and care facilities for livestock and incidence of diseases like Foot & Mouth disease
3. Fragmented and unorganised retail - 90% of livestock retail sector is unorganised leading to poor remuneration.
4. Regional imbalances in cooperative presence.

Women can be organised and their resources pooled in like done by Saguna Chicken & Poultry and scale to increase economies of scale and their bargaining power.

Q. 2.

One Nation One Ration card scheme has been introduced to allow portability of ration cards and allow access to PDS facilities to migrant beneficiaries.

Potential benefits of migrants -

1. migrant labourers were excluded from access to PDS facilities due to interoperability of ration cards.
2. under ONORC, migrant labourers can claim their rights under [NFSA] in states they are working in.
3. improve health and productivity According to World Bank, India loses 3% of GDP due to poor nutritional status of workers.

→ Potential benefits for urban poor and daily wagers –

1. Unlike rural beneficiaries, who stay and work in fixed areas, rural urban poor & daily wagers move frequently due to their nature of work.
2. ONORC will allow urban poor and daily wagers to access PDS in any part of India regardless of their address.
3. Improve nutritional status, health outcomes and reduce incidence of high expenditure on healthcare.
4. Tackle urban inflation: prices in urban areas for food & fuel and living cost is much higher.

Therefore. ONORC will make rights-based approach under NFSA more effective.

Q.3

According to IPCC 6th Report, India is amongst the most vulnerable nations to adverse affects of climate change.

Effect on agricultural production and productivity in India -

1. Degradation of land: productivity of land has reduced due to salination from frequent rainfalls caused by change in weather event.
2. Soil erosion and contamination caused by leaching of pollutants
3. Scarcity of water: according to composite Water Index by NITI Aayog, 50% of water needs will be unmet by 2030.

4. Loss of biodiversity and organic matter – Eg: worms and natural mulchers decreasing due to use of excessive chemicals.

Climate smart water saving agri-tech need:

1. Agriculture uses 80% of water in India and 60% of agriculture needs are met by groundwater.
2. Water saving agritech like micro irrigation and drip irrigation will ensure increase in water use efficiency by 80% according to Sahai Panel
3. Water saving agritech like vertical farming will allow precision of delivery.

Therefore, more investment in capital assets is required.

Q. 4.

IFFCO has recently introduced nanofertilizers like Nano Urea and Nano DAP, making India the first country to do so.

Economic benefits -

1. Reduction in cost of warehousing by 80% as 5kg of nanofertilizer is equivalent to 50kgs of conventional fertilizers in efficiency.
2. Reduction in input cost for farmers leading to increase in agri income.
3. Reduction in fiscal burden of govt. for fertilizer subsidy.

Environmental benefits -

1. Protect soil degradation from excessive leaching of chemicals.
2. Prevent eutrophication of lakes from run off pollutants from farms.
3. Increase nutritional value of crops.

Concerns in adoption -

1. High initial cost of procurement for farmers.
2. Lack of infrastructure like spraying equipement.
3. Lack of awareness about benefits and extension services.

Therefore, government will have to conduct pilot projects to ascertain success of nanourea and make it available & accessible to farmers.

Q. 5.

Natural gas is used as less polluting alternative to coal and petroleum products for energy generation and transportation.

Availability and distribution for economic and social progress -

1. Access to public mobility - public transport on natural gas like CNG buses are more economical & less expensive.
2. Access to LPG pipelines under PM Ujjwala will lead to women empowerment and health benefits.
3. Access to cheaper power supply.

Challenges -

1. Lack of availability of natural gas resources - Natural gas is produced in some areas of Bombay High, Digboi Assam but 90% of needs are import dependent

2. Increase in current account deficit due to high imports.

3. Environmental pollution caused by natural gas.

4. Lack of penetration of transport sum on natural gas Eg: only some urban centres like Delhi have adopted mandatory guidelines.

Therefore, there is a need of dedicated National Policy and also exploring other renewable alternatives

Q. 6>

Human-wildlife conflict in India leads to several deaths of both human & animals annually.

Reasons -

1. Poor demarcation of ~~wo~~ wildlife areas and lack of proper fencing and boundaries around wildlife sanctuaries & national reserves.

2. Cohabitation of animals and villages which fall within and around wildlife reserves.

3. Illegal poaching and hunting activities.

4. Loss of habitat of animals causing them to venture close to human settlements

5. Lack of water and natural prey causing animals to attack humans.

Measures taken -

1. Elephant corridors :
human - elephant conflicts have led to increase in elephant deaths in southern states. Centre has demarcate elephant corridors and 11 ranges.

2. Stringent implementation of Wildlife Protection Act, 1976

3. Wide powers to Chief Wildlife Wardens.

Proactive role of states and centres is required.

Q. 7.

According to census projections, urban population is going to increase to 50% from current 30% by 2030. Rapid unplanned urbanisation has caused several issues.

Linkage b/w urbanisation & noise pollution:

1. Construction activities caused severe noise pollution due to use of heavy machinery.
2. Transportation and heavy density of traffic in urban centres leads to most noise pollution.
3. Industrial centres cause noise pollution

as they are clustered around urban markets.

Effects of noise pollution on human health -

1. According to WHO, prolonged exposure to more than 65 decibels causes hearing loss.
2. Noise pollution leads to diseases like migraines and frequent headaches.
3. Noise pollution can cause permanent damage to eardrums and reduce cognition disabilities.

Therefore, stringent adherence to Noise Pollution Rules under Air Pollution Act is required.

Q. 8.

Indian space Policy, 2023 is set to usher a paradigm shift in space sector in India to encourage private sector participation. It is termed as the "1991 Economic Reforms" movement of space sector.

Catalyst for development

1. With new autonomous bodies like In Space and NSIL, Space Policy intends to liberalize space sector.

2. NSIL will function as commercial arm of ISRO - dealing with industrial links and handholding

and tech-transfer to new startups.

3. Inspace will be responsible for making ISRO's assets like launchpads and rockets accessible to both Indian companies and international market.

4. Indian space sector has huge potential for growth leading to creation of jobs and economic growth

5. ISRO's achievements can be shared with private sector to increase production and indigenous manufacturing.

Recently, Vikram Rocket. India first privately manufactured by Spaceroot - Hyderabad.

Q. 9

Special Frontier Force (SFF) functions under Ministry of Home Affairs, recruiting Tibetian members to protect Indian borders with China.

Mandate of SFF :

1. Posted along China (Tibetan) border along states of ~~Uttarakhand~~ Sikkim, UP and Bihar.
2. Special Border Protection force to ensure buffer b/w China and India and prevent illegal activities like smuggling and trafficking.

Achievements of SFF

1. Productive employment of channelizing of Tibetan youth against Chinese aggression.
2. Important intelligence and reconnaissance source for activities on ~~other~~ Chinese side.
3. Buffer force and complementary Indian defence personnel.

Therefore, SFF has played a crucial role in current standoffs Eg at Doklam to provide support and intelligence.

Q. 10.

Maritime security falls under the mandate of Navy and National coast Guards under Ministry of Defence in India.

Significance of maritime security

1. Strategic well-being:
maritime security is crucial to fend off increasing chinese aggression through string of Pearls strategy with ports at Gwadar and Hambantotta.

2. Maritime security is crucial to prevent illegal smuggling and trafficking

3. Crucial for prevention of infiltration and terrorist activities. Eg: terrorist entered through sea route during 26/11 Mumbai Attacks.

4. Economic well-being: large scale counterfeit & pirated products enter India from Bangladesh & Myanmar through marshes of Sunderbans, Bay of Bengal

Maritime Anti-Piracy Act: will ensure provisions for detention and prosecution of offensors. Prevent & tackle piracy in Indian Ocean Region.

India is also coordinating with Quad and ASEAN to tackle piracy in IOR.

Q. 11.

7 priority areas (Saptarishis) have been listed in Budget 2023-2024 to transform Economy, continue post covid recovery and meet target of 5 trillion Economy by 2030.

Saptarishis:

1. Infrastructure: through National Monetization Pipeline and National Infrastructure Pipeline to raise finances and build capital assets.
2. Green growth to meet NDCs and Panchamrit targets of 50% energy demands met by

renewable energy by 2030 ;
Changes made to Building Codes for new commercial buildings.

3. Financial sector : global services provided through GIFT city. Gujarat and financial inclusion through PM Jan Dhan etc.

4. Youth power : tapping into 60% of population in working age by 2030 to reap demographic dividend.

5. Inclusive development to allow distribution of wealth equitably.

6. Reaching last mile and providing all basic facilities like water through Jal

Jeevan Mission and electricity through Saubhagya Scheme

7. Unleashing potential of manufacturing and MSMEs

Promote inclusive development

1. creation of public goods & infrastructure to cause multiplier effect on economic growth..
2. Job creation and employment opportunities for large population.
3. Tap the potential of manufacturing sector & reduce import dependence.
4. Distribution of wealth & access to basic minimum.

Therefore, 7 priority sectors can streamline development and outcomes.

Q. 12.

Blockchain technology utilizes decentralized ledgers and transparent and participatory storage of data to prevent frauds & threats to data security.

Pivotal role towards digitization of land records:

1. Storage of large amounts of data spread accross various servers.
2. Data security as blockchain technology is tamper-proof and secure.

3. Decentralized access to all stakeholders like centre, state govts and citizens.

4. Privacy and protection of sensitive information as access available only through authorization.

5. Transparency and accountable storage of data as blockchain allows access to all and allows public scrutiny of data collected.

6. Reduction of fiscal burden to avail cloud services for storage of data which requires heavy expenditure.

7. Tackle issues of data localization.

8. Govt is undertaking digitization through several schemes like National Land Records Digitalization Mission and Svamitva scheme for rural areas – blockchain will allow coordination and collection uniformly.

9. Allow inter-ministerial cooperation and prevent duplication of efforts.

10. Create a single database of all landrecords in the country.

Therefore, steps are being taken through Open API resources to create indigenous blockchain.

Q. 12 >

PPP models allow pooling of financial burdens, risks and resources of both government and private sector to increase efficiency of service delivery.

PPP help in improving storage -

1. Currently India suffers from severe lack of infra for warehouses and storages - only 7000 cold storages exist according to Economic survey.

2. PPP model can ensure creation of assets in rural areas and provide access to crucial infra to

reduce post-harvest losses which are as high as 45-50% according to Dalwai Panel.

3. PPP projects can be used to create common warehouses and increase stockholding which suffers due to Essential Commodities Act, 1952 — which has prevented private participation.

PPP model for transportation -

1. Currently to number of refer vans and transport facilities are highly inadequate and also fragmented and unorganised

2. This leads to increase in number of middle men and

intermediaries which leads to poor prices for farmers and high prices for consumers.

3. PPP model for transportation will help organize the sector and streamline the value chain, thereby providing greater reach to farmers.

PPP for marketing:

1. PPP projects for training of farmers and FPOs to provide skills like private labelling, increased access to markets for better prices.

2. Extension services for awareness about market demands & improvement in quality to increase exports.

Therefore, PPP model can involve private sector leading to doubling of farmers' income

Q. 14.

SMART - PDS has been conceptualized based on recommendations of Shanta Kumar Committee to provide structural transformation at each stage of procurement, storage, transportation and distribution by FCI and state governments.

Benefits for food security -

1. NFSA mandates rights-based approach to tackle hunger and provide subsidized foodgrains to beneficiaries.
2. SMART - PDS will prevent leakages which are as high as 45-60% according to Shanta Kumar Committee.

Transformative potential

1. SMART - PDS will allow adoption of technology at various stages allowing transparency, accountability and efficiency of service delivery.

2. Procurement through FCI and payment of MSP through DBT and biometric adhaar to prevent frauds & payments to ghost beneficiaries.

3. Storage: GIS tagging and mapping of facilities;
- adoption of refrigerated vans & mechanized storage facilities to fight the current unsustainable plinth storage which leads to

spoiling of foodgrains due to humidity and rains.

4. Computerization of data of beneficiaries : end-to-end computerization of all PDS shops.

5. POS systems at PDS shops to ensure access to beneficiaries and prevent inclusionary errors.

6. Storage of data on blockchain to provide decentralized access to all stakeholders.

SMART-PDS will allow India to meet mandates under NFSA and improve position in Global Hunger Index which stands at 112 in 2022.

Q. 15.

Marine heatwaves are localized heating beyond average temperatures more than 4°C and cause severe risk to marine biodiversity.

causes behind occurances -

1. Heating of global temperature and increase of 1.1°c above pre-industrial levels.
2. Change in climate and weather events due to global warming.
3. Increased heat trapped in oceans leading to indiscriminate heating of surface layer.

4. increased storage of CO_2 in oceans causing more heat to be trapped.

5. changes in Ocean currents and increased radiation due to damage of ozone layer.

Effect on marine Ecosystem

1. Marine heat waves severly effect the entire ecosystem as they leads to depletion of plankton which serve as primary energy for the ecosystem.

2. Largescale damage to corals which cannot survive beyond 27°c leading to disruption of 60% uferms dependent on corals in marine ecosystems.

~~Economic Loss~~ 3. Disruption of global wind circulation and primary winds which depend on pressure zones created over oceans.

4. Damage to global thermo-haline circulations of ocean currents.

→ Economic Loss –

1. Damage to navigation facilities due to disturbed winds and ocean currents.
2. Depletion of marine resources like seaweed and marine food products.
3. Fisheries hampered immensely due to depletion of fishes due to loss of habitat.

Therefore, marine heatwaves damage the entire ecosystem and are increasing in frequency.

Q 16.

Glacial lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) are caused due to glacial outflows and flow of freshwater from glaciers causing widespread damage to life and property. GLOF was responsible for 2013 Kedarnath disaster.

Causes of GLOFs -

1. Melting of glaciers due to global warming.
2. Depletion of ice sheets due to increase in average temperature and loss of albedo.
3. Erosion of glacial edges and flow of excessive

freshwater into rivers leading to floods.

Impact of GLOFs —

1. Flooding in downstream areas and grave damage to life and property.
2. Change in course of rivers
3. Loss of freshwater stored in glaciers.
4. Loss of biodiversity and freshwater fishes and acquatic ecosystem
5. Fiscal burden and loss of crucial infrastructure like roads, railways.
6. Adverse impact on vulnerable communities leading to socio-economic disparities.

measures taken by Govt -

1. India Meteorological Dept is involved in aerial research and mapping of major glaciers.
2. Risk assessment conducted by MoES in coordination with IMD by mapping vulnerabilities.
3. Rehabilitation programmes for communities inhabitating disaster prone areas.
4. Controlling construction activities and climate sensitive planning at Gram Panchayat level.

Therefore, in addition to rehabilitative measure, preventive measures are required.

Q. 17.

Radiometric dating is used for various purposes like archaelogical research, scientific dating of fossils & exploration of natural resources.

Working of radiometric dating - carbon is present in all lifeforms and it has a fixed rate of decay After the death of a lifeform. Carbon 14 C(14) decays at a fixed rate which is measured to calculate age of any fossil or object.

Limitations -

1. Radiometric dating cannot be used for inanimate objects precisely.
2. High cost of technology
3. Lack of skilled personnel to carry out the procedure on large scale.
4. Budgetary constraints to employ radiometric dating due to requirement of many ancillary resources like digging equipment.

Potential advantages of using calcium 41 radiometric dating :

1. Covers a broad spectrum of objects that can be

dated including inaminate structures.

2. More precision by calculating exact age of fossils directly.

3. Lesser chance of interference to decay rate compared to C14 which is more variable to anaerobic conditions.

Therefore, adoption of calcium 14 can improve the scope and results of radiometric dating.

Q. 18.

ePharma entails providing digital services like online marketplace and retail for pharma products, tele-medicine and delivery of products.

Concerns over epharma -

1. Resistance from conventional pharma lobby which may suffer loss of revenue.
2. Lack of regulations & guidelines on epharma and no regulatory framework.

3. Lack of mechanisms to check quality and authentitity of drugs available.

4. Scope of exploitation of consumer by hampering competition by predatory pricing.

Measures required

1. Enacting statute regulating epharma marketplaces and rules for FDI and advent of imported drugs.

2. Inclusion of epharma under National Pharma Pricing Authority and CASO.

3. Establishing institutions to conduct quality checks and prevent exploitation of consumer.

Therefore, synergy between e pharma and National Digital Health Mission can ensure creation of digital ecosystem to increase accessibility and availability.

Q. 19.

According to Report presented by Ministry of Home Affairs in Lok Sabha, incidence of Left Wing Extremism has reduced by 92% from record high in 2019.

Factors for decline –

1. Stringent implementation of UAPA and increased deployment of security forces.

2. Developmental activities in affected regions.
Eg: "Education City Campaign" in Bastar by OP Chandhary.

3. Construction of infrastructure, roads through convergence of MGNREGA and welfare schemes.

4. Rehabilation schemes for extremists who surrender including skill development and vocational training with payment of stipend for 3 yrs.

5. Inclusion of LWE affected districts in mainstream economy leading to decline in no. of districts in all 10 states with most successful decline in Odisha.

Likely end of LWE -

1. No. of districts effected in Jharkhand have increased, whereas Chattisgarh remains constant.
2. Spread of LWE to newer areas of North-east.
3. Even though likely end of LWE has not been achieved, same is not far as various measures are being undertaken.

By tackling the cause of LWE which was lack of development, social and economic exclusion and radicalisation because of perceived neglect, MHA has been successful.

Q. 20.

Money laundering, tax crimes and terror financing thrive through a nexus and employ similar routes for carrying out illegal activities.

Political challenges -

1. Implementation of PMLA, 2013 suffers from lack of political will & increased criminalisation of politics.
2. Nexus b/w crony capitalism, bureaucrats and politicians prevents

Efficient functioning of enforcement agencies.

Legal challenges:

1. Lack of coordination b/w enforcement agencies
2. Overlapping mandates of ED under PMLA, state police and Anti Corruption Bureaus and tax authorities
3. Lack of organised institutional framework to deal with money-laundering and tax-evasion collectively.
4. High pendency in judiciary and procedural delays.

Operational challenges

1. Existence of hawala routes, round-tripping of tax evaded money.
2. Lack of international coordination to tackle money-laundering.
3. Lack of effectiveness of FATF which does not focus on tax havens like Panama etc.
4. Tax havens allowing easy entry to laundered money & whitening of money through their banks & institution.

Therefore anti-money laundering measures are in need of holistic implementation